



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in October 2001. The rate was unchanged from September 2001 and one-tenth of a percentage point higher than in October 2000. The area's unemployment rate remained below Idaho's rate of 4.9 percent and below the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent. Southeast Idaho does not have major employment tied to the airline industry nor is it a travel destination location; therefore its economy has not been significantly affected by the September terrorist attacks. Yet the Southeast Idaho economy has slowed, but it is most likely because of the slowing national economy and because of international trade rather than the September event.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* dropped from 33,140 in September 2001 to 33,000 in October 2001. This four-tenths of a percentage point decline was because of seasonal changes, which are normal this time of year. Jobs declined in *Construction* (6.2 percent), *Manufacturing* (1.9 percent), *Services* (4.3 percent), and *Government Administration* (2.0 percent). Although the area experienced warm weather throughout October, construction projects ceased in anticipation of winter and jobs declined by 110 month-over-month. *Manufacturing* experienced a small drop in jobs (50) but fluctuations in the industry are normal. The highest number of job losses occurred in the *Services* industry, which lost 360 jobs in October. Those losses were in *Hotels & Motels*, *Amusement & Recreation*, and *Business Services* as the summer travel and recreation season ended and fluctuations occurred in call centers and temporary staffing services. *Government Administration* dropped 70 jobs in parks maintenance and recreation programs. Seasonal hiring in *Wholesale and Retail Trade* in preparation for the holiday shopping season added 130 jobs, and

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,490	40,740	40,570	-0.6	-0.2
Unemployment	1,890	1,920	1,860	-1.6	1.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.7	4.6		
Total Employment	38,600	38,820	38,710	-0.6	-0.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,540	40,550	40,660	0.0	-0.3
Unemployment	1,690	1,660	1,660	1.8	1.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.1	4.1		
Total Employment	38,860	38,890	39,000	-0.1	-0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	33,000	33,140	33,450	-0.4	-1.3
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,190	4,350	4,540	-3.7	-7.7
Mining & Construction	1,660	1,770	1,680	-6.2	-1.2
Manufacturing	2,530	2,580	2,860	-1.9	-11.5
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	28,810	28,790	28,910	0.1	-0.3
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,750	1,770	1,820	-1.1	-3.8
Wholesale Trade	1,490	1,440	1,460	3.5	2.1
Retail Trade	7,120	7,040	7,360	1.1	-3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,440	1,450	1,430	-0.7	0.7
Services	7,930	8,290	7,760	-4.1	2.4
Government Administration	3,470	3,540	3,430	-2.0	1.2
Government Education	5,590	5,260	5,650	6.3	-1.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

student employment at Idaho State University added 202 jobs, while local schools added another 126 jobs.

Compared to October 2000, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* dropped by 450, a decline of 1.3 percent. Most job reductions are because of the slowing national economy. *Manufacturing* suffered the highest decline, which dropped 330 jobs. Most of those job losses were in *All Other Nondurable Manufacturing*, because of reductions at American MicroSystems, Inc. in Pocatello. Jobs in the other manufacturing sectors appeared close to or above last year's level. The remaining job reductions occurred in *Retail Trade's General Merchandise Stores*, *Food Stores*, and *Eating and Drinking Places* because of store closures and a lack of available workers to fill occasional positions. *Services* experienced the highest growth, adding 170 jobs over the year. Job growth occurred mostly in *Social Services* and *Engineering & Management Services* as programs to assist people in career/job transition grew and research firms added jobs.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### Holiday Activities Add Jobs (See Charts 1-3 on page 20)

Typically during the holiday shopping season, between October and December, around 300 to 400 jobs are added to the economy. *Wholesale Trade*, *Retail Trade*, and *Services* typically add the most jobs. Hiring gener-

Chart 1: Wholesale Trade Hiring Trends

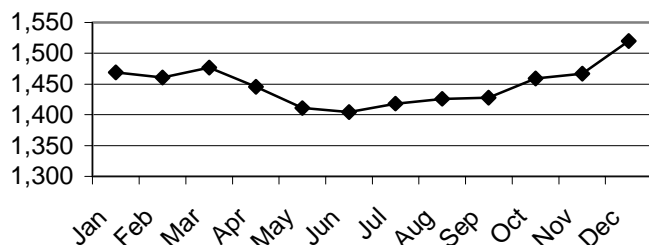


Chart 2: Retail Trade Hiring Trends

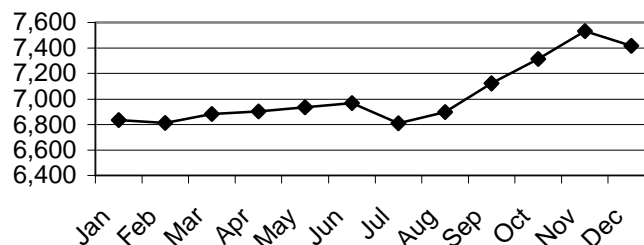
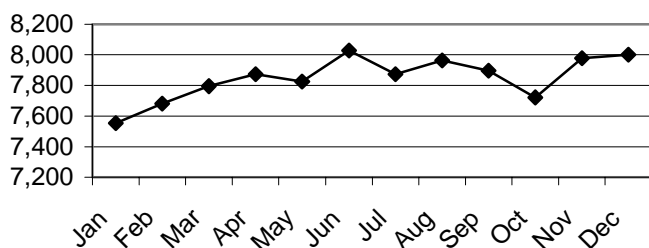


Chart 3: Services Hiring Trends



ally begins in September or October and lasts through the end of the year. Some businesses retain seasonal workers through January for year-end sales and inventory. Jobs in *Transportation*, specifically *Trucking*, generally increase as early as August to transport products to warehouses and stores in preparation for the holiday shopping season. *Wholesale Trade* usually begins to add jobs in October and gradually increases through December. *Retail Trade* begins adding jobs in September and increases through December. The *Services* sector usually adds jobs in November and December. Since these jobs are temporary, and added specifically for handling increased business for the holiday shopping season, they disappear by February.

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

*Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.*

### Bannock County

- Astaris' Pocatello facility (formerly FMC) closed in mid-December. The closure idled nearly 40 years of elemental phosphorus manufacturing at the facility and eliminated 315 jobs in the Pocatello area.
- Johnson Family Chiropractic opened at 2745 Pole Line Road in Pocatello. The business offers chiropractic care including X-rays, physiotherapy, school and Scout physicals, and nutritional supplements. Dr. Johnson has a special interest in infants, pregnancy, and sports injuries.

- A new real estate office, The Home Connection, opened at 850 East Clark Street in Pocatello. Owner/broker Barb Wood has been in the real estate business in Pocatello for ten years.
- Jill M Horrocks, Ph.D., has opened a private marriage and family therapy practice in Pocatello. The office is located at 1246 Yellowstone Avenue, Suite C-3.
- Grover Electric and Plumbing Supply in Chubbuck closed. The closure eliminated approximately 15 jobs.

### Bingham County

- Only \$1 opened at the Riverside Plaza in Blackfoot. The 10,000-square-foot store features a wide variety of merchandise, and everything in the store costs \$1 or less. The store employs approximately 15 people.
- C-A-L Ranch began site preparation for its new store in Blackfoot. The new store will be twice the size of Blackfoot's current C-A-L Ranch store at approximately 30,000-square-feet. The new store will be a part of the new Blackfoot Marketplace where as many as five additional businesses could be added. Opening of the new store is projected for late spring of 2002. Ten more employees should be added to the current staff of 15.

### Franklin County

- A dollar store, 4 Quarters, opened on State Street in Preston. The store is owned and operated by Doris and Doug Stuart of Weston.
- Sage Brush Auto opened at 1524 South State Street in Preston. The business specializes in repairs of cars, trucks, and farm equipment. Owner Brent Nelson has over 30 years of experience in automobile and diesel repairs.

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